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MAR 20 2008

67,108-017
Bogdan 2-1-1-1REMARKS

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the remarks and analysis contained in the Office Action. Claims 1 and 18 are amended. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of this application.

Applicant respectfully submits that claim 18 is not anticipated by *Piazza*. There is nothing in that reference that corresponds to the assigned status of claim 18 and how the assigned status is used to control whether a part number is assigned to a firmware file in claim 18. Claim 18 is allowable for the same reasons that claim 12 has been allowed.

Applicant respectfully submits that none of the claims are obvious over the proposed combination of the *Barturen, et al.* and *Piazza* references. Even if that combination could be made, the result is not the same as what is recited in Applicant's claims. The *Barturen, et al.* reference is not concerned with firmware that is burned onto a chip. Each of Applicant's claims includes a feature that ensures firmware is available to be burned onto a chip only after a part number has been assigned and that is only assigned after an assigned status corresponds to the firmware file being ready to be burned onto a chip. Neither the *Piazza* nor *Mukhurjee* reference adds those features. There is no *prima facie* case of obviousness.

Applicant believes that this case is in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE

I hereby certify that this Response, relative to Application Serial No. 10/648,909 is being facsimile transmitted to the Patent and Trademark Office (Fax No. (571) 273-8300) on March 20, 2008.


Theresa M. Palmateer